

The "Silly Season" correspondence, notably in the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Westminster Gazette*, has centred this August on "The Noisy Nurse," and many anonymous writers have launched various complaints of more or less gravity against private nurses which do not carry more weight than anonymous accusations do usually. In the *Daily Telegraph* of August 18th signed letters appear from Miss Isabel Macdonald who contends that "there is no class among whom as a whole there is more self forgetfulness, and self sacrifice, and that the relations of the nurse to the household are more dependent upon the attitude of those whose home she enters than she or they realize;" and from Miss Minnie C. Halzhauser, an American Graduate Nurse who expresses her "highest regard for your English sisters and nurses as I have come to know them at three of your largest and most prominent hospitals in the city. . . . I have watched many operations in the different theatres of these same hospitals, and seen the nurse's work and deportment there; and last but not least have seen her among the many patients in the wards, out patient departments, and in the homes of the wretchedly poor on the East side. And without exception these hundreds of patients have had none but the kindest of feelings and reverence for these same much abused nurses." In the same paper on Tuesday a hospital chaplain writes: "Patients are the best judges of their nurses (not exacting third persons), and when these speak it is seldom without tearful gratitude. I know of no stereotyped phrase by which nurses may be designated, but the loving, tender services which they, with doctors, render to mankind under the most trying and often revolting conditions have shown me more of the love of God than I have seen in the ministry of any other class, including my own."

And with a few notable exceptions none of those discussing the question go to the root of the matter, and point out the urgent and imperative need for the definition of a minimum standard of education for trained nurses, and the State Registration of those who attain it. For the disorganized condition of the nursing profession, the public who complain so bitterly are largely to blame. Trained nurses have for the last quarter of a century consistently and persistently pleaded for the power to maintain educational standards and discipline in their ranks, through a governing body in charge of a State Register; the medical profession, through its representative body, the British

Medical Association, has repeatedly passed resolutions supporting this reform, has deputed delegates to interview the Prime Minister and other heads of Government Departments, and has united with organized nurses in forming a Central Committee whose object is to secure the State Registration of Nurses. But the public with whom rests the power to press for legislation, is indifferent, and then finds fault when confronted with conditions which its own inertia has fostered. For it must not be forgotten that in no department of nursing is the disorganization more keenly felt than in the private nursing world, and in the nursing homes, of which so many complaints have been made in the course of this correspondence. Some of the very best women in the nursing profession, both as to training and personality, are to be found in the ranks of private nurses, and in nursing homes; also some women who are quite otherwise, and who, if any means of discrimination existed, would be recognized as having no right to the name and uniform of the trained nurse which they assume and dishonour.

In conclusion we give the following statement by a medical practitioner to the *Westminster Gazette*. "Some time ago it was my intention to stand for Parliament, and for over two years was an adopted candidate. However, my acceptance of a position under the Crown rendered my candidature illegal. Had I succeeded in obtaining a seat in the House of Commons I should at the earliest opportunity have introduced a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses. I feel convinced that until such a Bill has become law the nursing profession will always remain upon an unsatisfactory basis. Finally, I can only tell your readers that, in my humble opinion, nurses are one of the most valuable assets in our national life, and we may justly be proud of them."

The suicide of a patient in a nursing home is always a tragedy, and last week a verdict of "suicide while temporarily insane" was returned at an inquest on a lady who died from injuries received through throwing herself from a window in a nursing home in South Kensington. The patient suffered from delusions, and had been for some time under the care of mental specialists.

At a recent meeting of the Newport (Mon.) Guardians, the following recommendation of a sub-committee was adopted. "That if, in the opinion of the medical officer and superinten-

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